Judicious use of wetlands

2458. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to conserve and facilitate judicious use of wetlands;

(b) if so, the details including number of wetlands and national sites of wetlands identified to protect under Ramsar Convention of 1971, as on today, place-wise, inland-wise, coast-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, whether the State Governments were consulted for identifying and protecting wetland systems;

(d) if so, the details including number of wetland systems suggested by State Governments, if any, as on today, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken, if any, to commensurate appropriate policy for identification and protection of wetlands in detail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests implements a scheme on Conservation and Management of Wetlands under which 71 wetlands covering 22 States of the country have been identified for undertaking conservation activities to check further degradation. Assistance on 100% grant basis is given for activities like survey and demarcation, protection, siltation control, pollution abatement catchment area treatment, de-weeding, biodiversity conservation, supplementary and alternate livelihood support for people dependent on wetlands, community participation and education and awareness. An amount of Rs.43.16 crores has been released from 1987-88 to 2005-06 for conservation and management of identified wetlands in the country for various conservation activities.

(b) So far, 25 sites have been identified from India as Ramsar sites under Ramsar convention. The place-wise, inland-wise, coast-wise, State-wise and category-wise details of these sites are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Yes Sir, wetlands are identified on the basis of requests received from concerned State Governments. These proposals are further examined by an Expert Group on Wetland (EGoW) constituted in the Ministry. Wetland State Steering Committees have been constituted in concerned States under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary having members from subject matter Departments/Academicians/Stakeholders/NGOs and a Representative from Centre. The identification of site is based on Ramsar criteria and field visits are made to the proposed site to see their feasibility for inclusion under National Wetland Conservation Programme.

Statement

List of Wetlands State-wise, Place-wise/Coast-wise and Category-wise

Sl. No.	Name of Wetland	State	Place	Coast/ inland	Category
1.	Ashtamudi	Kerala	Quillon	Coastal	Estuarine
2.	Sasthamkotta Lake	-do-	Quillon	Coastal	Fresh water
3.	Vembanad-Kol Wetland	-do-	Cochin and Ernakulum	Coastal	Back water
4.	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Orissa	Kendrapara	Coastal	Riverine
5.	Chilika Lake	-do-	Puri and Ganjam	Coastal	Lagoon
6.	Bhoj Wetland	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Inland	Fresh water
7.	Deepor Beel	Assam	Guwahati	High altitude	Fresh water
8.	East Calcutta Wetlands	West Bengal	24 Paragana (South)	Inland	Fresh water
9.	Harike Lake	Punjab	Amritsar, Firozpur, Kapurthala	Inland	Fresh water
10.	Kanjli	-Do-	Kapurthala	Inland	Fresh water
11.	Ropar	-Do-	Ropar	Inland	Fresh water
12.	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	Inland	Fresh water
13.	Sambhar Lake	-Do-	Nagaur & Ajmer	Inland	Fresh water

Sl. No.	Name of Wetland	State	Place	Coast/ inland	Category
14.	Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna & West Godawari	Coastal	—
15.	Loktak Lake	Manipur	Bishanpur	Inland	Fresh water
16.	Point Calimere Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam & Tanjavur	Coastal	Fresh water
17.	Pong Dam Lake	Himachal Pradesh	Una	Inland	Riverine
18.	Chandratal	-Do-	Lahul Spiti	High altitude	Fresh water
19.	Renuka	-Do-	Sirmour	Inland	Fresh water
20.	Tsomoriri	Jammu & Kashmir	Leh	High altitude	Fresh water
21.	Wular Lake	-Do-	Baramula	Inland	Fresh water
22.	Hokarsar	-Do-	Srinagar	Inland	Fresh water
23.	Surinsar-Mansar	-Do-	Jammu	Inland	Fresh water
24.	Rudrasagar	Tripura	Tripura	Inland	Fresh water
25.	Uppar Ganga	U.P.	Haridwar & U.P.	Riverine	Fresh water

Melting of ice of Poles

2459. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that icelands of North and South Poles of earth are growing warmer these days;

(b) if so, the extent to which the ice of these poles is expected to be melted during the coming five years;

(c) the extent to which the levels of the oceans shall rise and most particularly the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea;

(d) the extent to which the coastal areas are expected to be adversely affected; and

(e) what are Government's consideration in this regard for the protection of Indian soil?